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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Proposed MS DOJ Settlement

A quick recap of events:

- 1) Microsoft begins breaking the antitrust laws.
- 2) After a legal spat with the government we get the Consent Decree.
- 3) Microsoft abuses the antitrust laws in worse ways than before the consent decree.
- 4) Microsoft (a repeat offender now) is convicted in court of breaking several antitrust laws (things seem to be getting worse not better)

Now here we are discussing a "settlement agreement" for which there are absolutely no penalties associated with the actual convictions mentioned in item 4, and the thrust of the agreement seems to be:

"The previous consent decree seemed to work really well before, lets try and do something just like it again."

At least now I understand why my college law professor claimed that our legal system is not about justice, and that it will never provide a just settlement between a "large ruthless entity"(think Microsoft) and a "smaller kinder entity"(think DOJ). The US Government has always been considered the big kid on the block up to now, and as a result our society has enjoyed the benefits of the rule of law generally. It sadens me to think what the future will bring now that one company has demonstrated that the government is no longer the big kid on the block and there are others out there who can ride rough shod over the government's law if they please.

Truely a sad day for the United States. . .

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